

In the Claims

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

Claim 42 (Currently amended): A method for inhibiting the expression of Dengue virus genes within a mammalian host, said method comprising administering ~~the vector of claim 25~~ to the host a vector comprising at least one gene suppressing cassette, wherein said gene suppressing cassette comprises a polynucleotide operably-linked to a promoter sequence, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule that reduces expression of a target Dengue virus gene within the host by RNA interference, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is transcribed to produce the siRNA molecule, ~~and wherein the siRNA molecule is capable of reducing expression of a target Dengue virus gene within the host by RNA interference.~~

Claims 43-44 (Cancelled)

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the host is suffering from a Dengue virus infection.

Claim 46 (Previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the host is not suffering from a Dengue virus infection, and wherein the vector is administered prophylactically.

Claims 47-50 (Cancelled)

Claim 51 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the host is a human.

Claim 52 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said vector comprises a plurality of gene suppressing cassettes.

Claim 53 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene encodes a structural protein.

Claim 54 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene encodes a non-structural protein.

Claim 55 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene is at least one gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of C, prM, E, NS1, NS2a, NS3, NS4a, NS4b, and NS5.

Claim 56 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

Claim 57 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is conjugated with chitosan or a chitosan derivative.

Claim 58 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the target sequence is from 15 to 30 nucleotides in length.

Claim 59 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleotide sequence targeted by the siRNA is common to 2, 3, or 4 serotypes of Dengue virus.

Claim 60 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is administered to the host intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intradermally, orally, or intranasally.

Claim 61 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the promoter sequence is an inducible promoter sequence.

Claim 62 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein the promoter sequence is a tissue-specific promoter sequence.